

## Marylhurst Neighborhood Association

### August 25, 2020 Meeting Minutes

President Oakes called the meeting to order, noting a quorum present and six guests.

**Agenda** was amended and approved, adding a presentation about the Labyrinth at Marylhurst Heights Park. Three additional candidates for West Linn requested community comment time.

**Minutes** of the October 22, 2019 meeting were approved as drafted.

**Community Comments** Candidates for West Linn each had five minutes to speak/answer questions: Mary Baumgardner, Councilor; Ken Pryor, Councilor; Bob McCarthy, Mayor; Jenny Koll, Councilor.

**Landscape at Marylhurst Heights sign** President Oakes reported that the landscaper whose proposal was approved at the November 26, 2020 meeting is not able to do the work. The work requires an Oregon Landscaping License. Response to the RFP has been that companies are not interested in this one small job or they are too busy. She suggested members refer any qualified landscapers in the area to her.

**Labyrinth at Marylhurst Heights Park** Member Mary Jean Rivera shared the history and photos of the labyrinth. She brought the idea of it to MNA, who voted on a design and supported installation, along with the City as a Boy Scout Eagle project. The purpose is to see the design and walk the path for reflection/ meditation, which has been lost over the years and as added plants overgrew it. Members have volunteered to work parties to maintain it. Ms. Rivera has volunteered with the City to be the lead on continued maintenance for two years. The City recently cut down all plants to the ground and she recommends plantings only around the perimeter. President Oakes added the labyrinth was added to Marylhurst Neighborhood Plan and the Park Plan, developed by committees of MNA.

**Communication Tower adjacent park** President Oakes explained that Clackamas County only recently notified the City of a land-use application by Clackamas County Radio Group 800 (C800) to build a 196 ft. tower and antenna on property adjacent to Marylhurst Heights Park as part of an emergency communications network. C800 is a collaborative of County emergency response agencies, including WL Police. The "island property" is County land surrounded by City land and therefore under County codes. It is owned by Oregon Department of Transportation and has two towers that would be demolished. A member noted most of the equipment on the site is not used. The WL Parks Master Plan and Marylhurst Neighborhood Plan designate the property to complete the Park, along with adjacent undeveloped City property to the south. It was understood that ODOT would sell the property to the City for a nominal fee when the property was no longer needed. The County agreed to hold approval of

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the tower facility until C800 presented its proposal to City Council and the affected neighborhood associations: Marylhurst and Hidden Springs.

President Oakes disseminated information and updates to MNA email subscribers, and tried to schedule a meeting with Mr. Hartsock of C800, who wanted to wait. He said the Marylhurst site was selected after two sites in Lake Oswego were denied and ODOT offered a free lease in exchange for upgrading its facility; and it was easier to get County approval. The community showed a great deal of opposition to the tower through comments to Council, City Manager, Mr. Hartsock, and County and State Representatives; and 530 people who had signed an online petition thus far. Members and neighbors expressed they were frustrated by the short notice and tried to spread the word. A few hand-made signs were effective and it was suggested to use printed signs going forward.

At its August 3 meeting, Council agreed the tower location was inappropriate and called for a meeting between the City Manager, County staff and Mr. Harsock to discuss next steps. Council directed the City Attorney to explore options to annex the property to bring it under City jurisdiction. President Oakes orally commented on the facts of the project and interest in having Mr. Hartsock come to a MNA meeting. At the follow-up meeting with City Manager, County and Mr. Hartsock, he agreed to recommend to C800 to abandon the project. C800 met and decided to suspend discussion on the project until January 2021 to better study signal coverage and emergency communication coverage in the area; and convene community conversations. A member commented that the proposed project uses technology that is out dated. A member said the data shows that the existing coverage is adequate.

President Oakes noted the project has not been abandoned and suggested MNA send a letter or resolution in support of annexation and purchase of the ODOT property to support Marylhurst Neighborhood Plan. Members expressed opposition to the tower and concerns:

- Location essentially in the backyards of people and adjacent the park risked safety
- Lot size was insufficient for the tower
- Height of tower was inappropriate for a residential neighborhood
- Height of tower was considerably higher than the existing towers and trees, derogating aesthetics of the neighborhood
- Tower would lower property values
- Negative health impacts of radio waves
- Natural area would be negatively impacted and not preserved as park land
- The tower appeared to not meet County code for dimensional standards

It was moved and seconded to support annexation of the ODOT property and purchase it when it becomes available in support of the Marylhurst Neighborhood Plan; and Council

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should obtain an update on the status of the equipment on the property from ODOT. The vote was in favor 12-0.

**Resolution Keeping Burnside Park as a Wilderness Park** President Oakes drafted the resolution for consideration and gave background information. Bolton Neighborhood Association, where the Park is located, requested to NAP for NAs to consider a resolution to protect the Park as wilderness area as stipulated when deeded to the City in 1935. A member questioned the need for a resolution. Mr. McCarthy, BNA President, said there was some talk on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board of development not fitting a wilderness. The draft resolution as linked to the agenda was read. President Oakes asked for a motion. There was consensus to get more background information and consider it at a future meeting.

**Community and City Announcements** President Oakes announced MNA is taking nominations for all officers for the election at the October meeting, encouraging members to self-nominate or nominate a member. The position of Secretary has been vacant and needs filling.

She reviewed the announcements and encouraged members to participate in the ODOT survey about tolling I-205 at the link on the agenda.

**Next Meeting will be September 22, 2020**

**Meeting Adjourned**